



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2006**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
LAUREN McDONOUGH, YUSILL SCRIBNER
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**FBI
CHRISTINE MONACO, JAMES MARGOLIN
(212) 384-2715, 2720**

U.S. ARRESTS TWO FOR SUPPORTING HIZBALLAH

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), announced the unsealing today of an eleven-count Indictment charging JAVED IQBAL, a/k/a "John Iqbal," 42, of Staten Island, New York, and SALEH ELAHWAL, 53, of Matawan, New Jersey, with providing material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization, Hizballah.

The Indictment alleges that, through a company called HDTV Ltd., IQBAL and ELAHWAL conspired to broadcast Hizballah's TV station, Al Manar, to HDTV's customers from September 2005 through August 2006. ["Al Manar" means "the beacon" in Arabic.] In exchange, HDTV received payments of thousands of dollars from Al Manar. The Indictment further alleges that IQBAL and ELAHWAL worked to provide electronic equipment relating to satellite television broadcasting to Hizballah through Al Manar.

IQBAL was arrested on related charges on August 23, 2006, pursuant to a criminal Complaint. Following his arrest, IQBAL was released on bail, which included electronic monitoring. At the time of IQBAL's arrest, federal agents executed simultaneous search warrants at his home in Staten Island and HDTV's offices in Brooklyn. IQBAL surrendered to law enforcement officials today. ELAHWAL was arrested at his home this morning. Both defendants will be arraigned on the Indictment this afternoon by United States District Judge Richard M. Berman.

If convicted of the charges in the Indictment, IQBAL and ELAHWAL each face a maximum sentence of 110 years' imprisonment.

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force in conducting the investigation. Mr. GARCIA said the investigation is continuing.

Mr. GARCIA added: "JAVED IQBAL and SALEH ELAHWAL engaged in transactions that support the terrorist organizations Hizballah and Al Manar, and did so for financial profit. As terrorist organizations become more sophisticated, it is critical that we respond using all the enforcement tools the law provides."

FBI Assistant Director MERSHON stated: "The FBI will continue to police efforts by anyone to prop up designated terrorist organizations like Hizballah. Material support can take many forms, including contractual relationships like the one these defendants entered into."

Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Miller is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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